



**MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR**

**CHILDREN**

**MEETING  
MINUTES**

**MAY 4, 2011 (approved 5/4/11)**

**PRESENT:** K. Grunwald (staff), V. Fry, J. Higham, J. Goldman, C. Guerreri, L. Young, MJ Newman, S. Baxter (staff), J. Stoughton (Co-Chair), Anne Willenborg (guest), S. Anderson, Ellen Tulman (guest), E. Soffer Roberts, G. Bent (Co-Chair), P. Braithwaite, Kenton Young (guest), R. Leclerc (staff), F. Baruzzi (staff), Lily Zhu(guest),  
**REGRETS:** A. Bloom, J. Sudemeyer, A. Bladen, L. Dahn,

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME
Call to Order	<p>Co-Chair J. Stoughton called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Welcome and Announcements – J. Stoughton Introduced new member Ellen Tulman and had members and guests go around and introduce themselves.</p> <p>Vote on Minutes of 4/6/11</p> <p>Sandy’s Assistant hiring update: Sandy reported that she has spoken to the Assistant to the Town Manager, who will be posting the position both internally and externally. The goal is for this to be a short recruitment.</p>	The minutes of the April 6 meeting were accepted as written.
Membership	Review By-Laws: J. Stoughton clarified that membership includes joining one of the 3 focus teams. It’s important to not just attend meetings, but actively participate in the work of the teams. S. Baxter pointed out the duties of membership as spelled out in Article III of the bylaws. There are numerous opportunities for members to engage in outreach activities to all sectors of the community.	Members are asked to identify untapped sectors of the community that they may be able to reach out to.
Playground In new Downtown	S. Anderson reported that despite a flyer that went out in the Friday folders no parents responded. The sub-committee did meet and reviewed the “community-build” process, in which the community comes up with the materials for the project. There were several suggestions re: how to involve other community partners. There is a Planning & Design meeting of the Partnership on May 17 that Sara will be attending. There was a suggestion that someone make a presentation to the Parks Advisory Committee, since Parks & Rec. will be maintaining the playground. J. Stoughton asked who will determine if the land is available? It is understood that the Town will be responsible for the community space. J. Stoughton explained that Sara and this sub-committee have taken on responsibility for assuming leadership for this project. The goal is that this will be funded through donations and fund raising efforts, including looking at businesses in the Storrs Downtown. E. Soffer Roberts added that this is intended to be a community-wide initiative, which will build connections amongst participants.	

Graustein 10 Year Review	Brainstorming Session to review MAC's 10 year history with Graustein – C. Guerreri led the group in a brainstorming session to review the most significant accomplishments of MAC in this community in the past 10 years. The goal is to identify the one or two most significant accomplishments that the collaborative has done in the community in broad categories by combining specific activities and events. This will be included in Graustein's Stone Soup Conference. It was generally agreed that it comes down to the ability to serve as a community resource on the issues of early childhood through municipal support and parent leadership and engagement.	S. Baxter will work with L. Young to whittle this down to 2 or 3 broad categories.
Health Team Initiative	Safe Routes to Schools: K. Grunwald reported that the Town of Mansfield is considering applying for a grant which would provide funding for infrastructure to create a walkway from Rt.195 to Southeast School. F. Baruzzi explained what is involved in the application process, including the school providing data through a parent survey, including the benefits.	Contact Ande Bloom if you are interested in working on this.
Community Conversation	Debriefing: Community Conversation: S. Baxter referred to handouts from the Follow-Up to the Community Conversation. The focus of this Conversation was primarily information dissemination and community connectedness/engagement. She clarified that the action plan on creating an online forum is related to the issue of community connectedness. Several members pointed out that this could be done through Facebook. J. Goldman questioned how MAC will integrate action plans from the Conversation into the ongoing work of the teams. J. Stoughton suggested that members review the Action Plans and determine how to tie this into the teams. C. Guerreri suggested having the Executive Committee assume some oversight for this. J. Higham asked for clarification about Kenton Young's CATV show. Kenton explained that he started a show called "Community Partnership" on Channel 14, which features individuals who are working in their communities on a variety of projects.	Move the issue of Action Plans to the agenda for the next meeting. J. Higham volunteered to serve as the chair of an ad hoc committee to integrate issues related to community connectedness.  Kenton will notify us when his next show will be broadcasted.
Announcements	P. Braithwaite asked if anyone from MAC will have a booth at the Southeast School flea market. No one has volunteered. Also, the NuVal presentation will be held at Southeast School on June 6 at 6:30. This will be an opportunity for the Health Team to distribute information. The Executive Council meeting is May 11 from 1:15-2:45.	Contact J. Higham by May 13 re: a MAC booth, if there are any volunteers.
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM. <u>The next meeting is Wednesday, June 1, 2011, Town Hall –Council Chambers at:</u> <u>5:00PM</u> Team meetings <u>6:30PM</u> full MAC meeting	Agenda topics: please send to Sandy

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Grunwald